

Hong Kong Natural History Society

Report on January 2011 Outing to Sai Kung East Country Park – Luk Wu

The group of 19 members, with 2 meeting at Pak Tam Chung and 2 at the starting point of Luk Wu Country Trail, began the gentle ascent at about 11:00 on a mild sunny day. After about 30 minutes, we re-grouped before starting to approach Luk Wu Plateau. Members took the stone steps at their own pace and stopped whenever they needed for a short break or turned back to take some pictures of the view. As scheduled, we took our first coffee break for half an hour at the campsite at Luk Wu Plateau. After the break, we moved on along the trail where we were supposed to see the Chinese New Year flowers. However, maybe due to this recent cold front from the north, the flowers were not in bloom. Hoping that members would not feel disappointed, I have included here a photo of the flowers from a report written in January 2003. Perhaps for next year, we can arrange a walk to see the Chinese New Year flowers in February when it is a bit warmer.



Enkianthus quinqueflorus, the Chinese New Year Flower

We soon came to the steep flight of stairs descending to Pak Hang. Most members stopped to look at the beautiful views of Long Harbour and Sai Kung east from a distance. After about 20 minutes of sharp descent, we further advanced to the challenging route at Pak Hang. We all took this part slowly but surely and arrived safely at a small dam by the stream for our lunch break. We rested for half an hour and made our way down to Chek Keng. We found the coast was just as peaceful and scenic as ever. The faster hikers had the privilege to sit by the coast in this tranquillity, waiting for the others to come.



After re-grouping, we continued forward to the junction with the path leading to Wong Shek. At this stage, 2 members left the group early for other arrangements. On this stone path, we found many fossil-like printed stones. We still need further investigation to find out more information about these plant fossils.



Further along, one member nearly stood on a Red-necked Keelback snake which was just lying across the path, playing dead. After looking at it for quite some time, it was disturbed by a couple of human intruders not part of our group, and made us jump as it showed us it was still very much alive! It then disappeared into the nearby undergrowth.



With thanks to AFCD for this photograph.

Then at Cheng's village, we found a deserted cottage which should not be disturbed. This roof is a breeding ground for the bats in summer. Most members enjoyed the last bit of coastal walk very much, and arrived at Wong Shek where the coach picked us up at 4:30. The group dismissed in Central at about 5:30 pm.

Report written by Mak Wei Ming

Photos taken by Pat Mak.